caBIG® Enterprise Support Network

Navigating the Road to caBIG® Interoperability

The cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG®) initiative, overseen by the National Cancer Institute Center for Biomedical Informatics and Information Technology (NCI-CBIIT), was conceived to advance basic and clinical research on cancer and to improve clinical outcomes for patients. The initiative has successfully launched key tools, infrastructure, and policy resources that enable individuals and organizations in the cancer community and other domains to be more efficient and innovative. As caBIG® moves into the next phase of development and deployment, the new caBIG® Enterprise Support Network (ESN) will help 21st century biomedical researchers integrate caBIG® tools and infrastructure at their institutions. The ESN represents a major step forward, by authorizing a variety of external organizations, both academic and commercial, to deliver support services in their particular areas of expertise.

The ESN will provide wide-ranging support for caBIG® standards, applications, and infrastructure to individuals including end users, administrators, and IT staff; organizations and institutions of the current caBIG® community; the broader cancer research enterprise, and eventually others in the biomedical community from other domains who can benefit from interoperability. Collectively, the programs of the ESN can help individuals and organizations determine which technologies to adopt or adapt and how to integrate them into their research enterprise.

The caBIG® Enterprise Support Network combines two resources that provide diverse expertise and the ability to expedite and increase the integration of caBIG® technology. Made up of **Knowledge Centers** and **Support Service Providers**, this support network provides services and mentoring along the road to adopting caBIG® tools, standards, and infrastructure, or to adapting existing tools to become caBIG® compatible.

Enterprise Support Network Offerings
Knowledge Centers

Knowledge Centers are NCI-supported entities focusing on the specific domains in which they have expertise. Each Knowledge Center provides a centralized, authoritative repository of knowledge and information and Web-based support to facilitate the adoption of caBIG® tools, standards, and infrastructure for that domain.

Knowledge Centers currently support the following domains:

- Tissue/Biospecimen Banking and Technology Tools
- caGrid Technology Tools
- Vocabulary
- Clinical Trials Management Systems
- Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital
- Molecular Analysis Tools

Specific services offered by Knowledge Centers:

- Domain expertise
- Comprehensive and up-to-date installation packages for caBIG® tools
- Technical and end-user documentation
- Fostering open source development of caBIG® tools by the community
- Collection and monitoring of defect reports, feature requests, and end-user requirements

Support Service Providers

Support Service Providers are third-party organizations that deliver software application and technical support to end-users and IT professionals. In order to preserve the integrity of the caBIG® trademark, each Support Service Provider is selected by caBIG® based on their ability to meet defined evaluation criteria, including their technical capabilities and biomedical domain expertise. Service contracts are arranged between Support Service Providers and clients on a fee-for-services basis. Specific services offered by SSPs include:

- **Help Desk Support** – Support for end users and local IT administrators in institutions using caBIG® applications and tools contained within the three caBIG® Bundles (Life Sciences Distribution, Clinical Trials Compatibility Framework, and Data Sharing and Security Framework), as well as those wishing to adapt tools or connect their tools to the grid.

- **Adaptation and Enhancement of caBIG®-Compatible Software Applications** – Support for the development of caBIG®-compatible software, including adaptation of existing systems for caBIG® compatibility, custom enhancements to existing caBIG® tools that satisfy specific user-driven requirements while maintaining caBIG® compatibility, and *de novo* development of caBIG®-compatible applications and tools.

- **Deployment Support for caBIG® Software Applications** – Includes on-site or off-site procurement and provisioning of hardware, operating systems, and other software, such as application servers and databases, along with installation and configuration of caBIG® software, legacy data transformation, and migration.

- **Documentation and Training Materials and Services** – Development of documentation and training materials for caBIG® software applications, caBIG® compatibility for existing systems, and use of caCORE infrastructure. Certain vendors also provide on-site or remote training for caBIG® applications.

Resources

Visit http://cabig.nci.nih.gov/esn/ to learn more about the Enterprise Support Network, or contact caBIGinfo@cancer.gov.